

## **Volunteer Monthly Spotlight** **By: Betty Batten, Volunteer Coordinator**

While the answer to the question “What prompted your interest in volunteering with us” is always interesting and varied, author and Volunteer Management expert Susan J. Ellis emphasizes that knowing what “keeps a volunteer committed” is an even more critical factor to understand.

For Data Entry volunteer Angie Brownsell, it was her personal dementia story that led to volunteering with us. She recalls how much her parents valued the Alzheimer’s Society Support and Activity Groups during her father’s journey, and sees her volunteer time as “giving back”. With their passing still a tender loss, she recognized that postponing direct client contact in favour of behind the scenes administrative support was the right choice for the time. Angie’s skill set and detail oriented nature is an ideal fit for the demands of working with the masses of information contained on Society databases.

Now, almost two years later, and challenged by Susan Ellis point, I set out to explore Angie’s perspective of what “keeps” her committed. She began by saying that staff dedication and cohesiveness are important factors. She spoke of being amazed by how much time and travel staff devote to serving just one client. “People have no idea what’s involved.” Likewise, she acknowledged the huge workload behind successful fundraising events and the large number of volunteers needed to make them happen. Fresh from last week’s day long Volunteer Conference, Angie stated that she “feels appreciated. It was an informative day, friendly and enjoyable. ***Wednesdays are my day to come have fun with all of you***”. Knowing that Angie is a busy grandma and her time is limited, our appreciation is indeed genuine. We’re thrilled to hear that she considers her volunteer shift a “fun” part of her week.

Currently, there are two shift vacancies on our Reception Desk and a variety of other opportunities to consider.

To explore, please call Betty at 705-748-5131 or 1-800-561-2588 or email [betty@alzheimersociety.ca](mailto:betty@alzheimersociety.ca)